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To a casual reader, the first portion or about nine chapters of the book would appear to treat of the social conditions and development of the colony at the Bay. Then the growth of town government is handled politically, and the clearly aristocratic functions of the towns are recognized and well worked out. Samuel Stone said wisely of the Congregational meeting, "it was a speaking Aristocracy in the face of a silent Democracy."

But this interpretation would not satisfy our author. He makes an arbitrary division after Chapter IX., assigning X.-XI. to a theocracy and XII.-XVII. to a republic. This arbitrary distinction is not made out. The Congregational ministers were file-leaders in their citizenship, whether, like Jonathan Mayhew in the Revolution, they stirred Massachusetts to its depths, or, like John Cotton in the persecution of Anne Hutchinson, they toppled on the surface. These were the men and the functions, name them theocratic or republican, as we may.

The best chapters are XII. and XIII., describing the autonomy and growth of the towns. Here the legal training of the writer tells in his work.

The book contains much interesting matter, generally presented in agreeable form, excepting the burdensome citations. It is not history; it is smart speaking to a thesis, imperfectly conceived and not deliberately thought out. It is significant that it closes with a flippant reference to Rev. Joseph Cook as a prophet (!!) to be recognized concerning the decadence of New England.

WILLIAM B. WEEDEN.

The Northwest under Three Flags, 1635-1796. By CHARLES MOORE. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1900. Pp. xxiv, 402.)

THE Northwest of a century ago offers to the historian a subject of engaging interest that is marked by all the classical unities—place, time, and action. While it is connected with Canada on the one hand, and with the thirteen colonies and states on the other, it still furnishes a distinct centre of unity in itself, and can be treated in a continuous narrative. We do not know why the year 1635 should be chosen for the beginning, for it was in 1634 that Nicolet pushed through the waters of Lake Huron and the Strait of Mackinaw and discovered Lake Michigan and the region beyond; but 1796, the date of the surrender of the Northwestern posts by Great Britain to the United States, and the passage of the whole Northwest under the third flag, is the proper place to halt, unless, indeed, the history is to be brought down to the present time. There are, to be sure, early rumors of a still earlier venture into the Northwest than Nicolet's, but they are uncertain, and in no sense mark the beginning of Northwestern history, and so may properly be dispatched incidentally, as has been done by the author of the present work.

Mr. Moore has seized the idea of the historical unity of the Northwest, and has aimed to produce a narrative account of it that shall be

marked by the same character. Moreover, he has well succeeded in his undertaking. His work shows careful study of sources, good sense in handling materials, and commendable skill in composition. He has a quick eye for the picturesque and romantic elements, in which his subject is so rich, and a facile pen in turning them to good account. His narrative is not indeed the narrative of Mr. Parkman, but it is orderly, clear, and in vigor and animation well sustained. It is also pleasant to find him not unfrequently correcting the errors of older and better-known writers and adding new facts to our knowledge. He also often shows an admirable grasp of the large relation of things, as witness the following on the connection of the Northwest with our early national history:

“In its defense Washington first learned the art of war; Franklin realized its possibilities and interested himself in its development; Patrick Henry planned with George Rogers Clark for its conquest; John Jay and Franklin and John Adams drew about it the lines of the United States; Thomas Jefferson bestowed upon it the inestimable boon of freedom; Washington’s chief of engineers led its first settlers, and Mad Anthony Wayne subdued its savage inhabitants and received the surrender of its frontier posts.”

But Mr. Moore does not always show as firm a grasp as this of the large features of his subject; he does not always make the reader vividly see and strongly feel the master forces that are working behind, or rather in, the events, and so fashioning important history. The defect is not compensated for by good descriptions of the French traders and boatmen or the interesting story of forest warfare. Sometimes there is no indication of the existence of important questions mooted among historians that have arisen out of the facts which the author relates. Occasionally, too, we notice errors in matter of detail. John Cabot did not discover America in 1498, but in 1497. There is no discussion of the policy that prompted the drawing in 1763 of the “King’s Line,” as it was called, between the heads of the rivers flowing to the eastward and to the westward from the flanks of the Appalachian mountains. We have a good account of the Pontiac war, and particularly of the siege of Detroit, as a series of events, but no plain statement of the ideas and plans of Pontiac. In dealing with the Quebec Act the author quotes the well-known indictment of the King on this score found in the Declaration of Independence, but we have no discussion of the policy of the act in relation to the Thirteen Colonies beyond these two sentences:

“Taken as one of the many reasons by which the ministers of George III. sought to curb and suppress the Colonies, the Quebec Act was unwise and impolitic. Viewed from the standpoint of a quiet administration of England’s new territories, it was so successful that during the Revolution the Americans failed in all their efforts to detach the Canadians generally from their allegiance to the British.”

Now, it is not wholly certain that the English ministers sought by the Quebec Act “to curb and suppress” the colonies, nor that it was owing to this act that the Americans failed “to detach the Canadians

generally" from their British allegiance. The most recent investigation of this subject was made three or four years ago by Professor Victor Coffin, who maintained "that the provisions of the Quebec Act were neither occasioned nor appreciably affected by conditions in the early colonies" and "that, far from being effectual in keeping the mass of Canadians loyal to the British connection, the measure had a strong influence in precisely the opposite direction."¹ We have no space to discuss the question involved, and shall not pass judgment upon it further than to remark that Professor Coffin's book is one with which the historian of the Northwest should feel that he is called upon to reckon. It is not even mentioned here.

Once more, the treatment of some events that occurred just before the first American settlements beyond the Ohio were made, is not altogether satisfactory. The author's statement of the proposition made by Jefferson in 1784 relative to the exclusion of slavery from the Western country would certainly mislead the reader, unless he is able to check it by an earlier knowledge. The bare reference to the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785, gives the whole credit of the rectangular system of land-surveys to Mr. Jefferson, who brought in the bill, but it was New England insistence upon such a system and definite locations of land in the Western country that effected this great piece of legislation. Once more, the land-grant educational policy eventually adopted by Congress had its origin in the Land Ordinance, and not in the Ordinance of 1787, which simply contained an academical declaration on the subject.

It is very true that an author has a right to have his book judged with reference to the plan on which it is written, and that, judged by this criterion, *The Northwest under Three Flags* deserves high praise. The story, as a whole, has never been so well told before. At the same time, if Mr. Moore had somewhat enlarged his plan, so as to take a broader view of his subject, and to introduce some discussion of its more notable features, even at the expense of omitting some of the picturesque detail, he would have produced a more valuable book.

B. A. HINSDALE.

On the Trail of a Spanish Pioneer; The Diary and Itinerary of Francisco Garcés, 1775-1776. By ELLIOTT COUES. (New York: Francis P. Harper. 1900. [American Explorer Series, III.]. Two vols., pp. xxx, 312.)

THIS book is a translation from the Spanish manuscript copy of the diary of Garcés, kept through his journeys in Sonora, Arizona and California. It has a valuable introduction by Coues and an abridged translation of the life of Garcés by Juan Domingo Arricivita.

The diary of Garcés is very meagre, chiefly because there was little to write concerning his somewhat aimless wanderings in the wilderness

¹ *The Province of Quebec and the Early American Revolution*, Madison, Wis. 1896, *preface*.